

CTV , Reply



Town Administrator
Tel. (978) 371-6688

Town of Carlisle

Office of

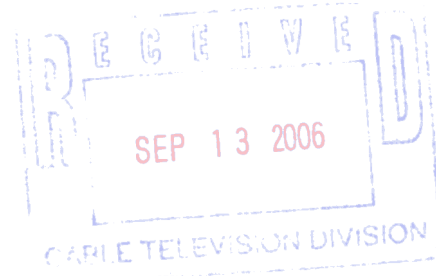
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

66 WESTFORD STREET
CARLISLE, MASSACHUSETTS 01741
TEL. (978) 369-6136



Fax. (978) 318-0098

September 11, 2006



Ms. Alicia C. Matthews, Director
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
1 South Station
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Competitive Franchising Rulemaking, CTV 06-I
Reply Comments

Dear Ms. Matthews:

I am writing in response to your memo dated August 23, 2006. The Town of Carlisle has significant concerns with Verizon's, March 16, 2006, rulemaking petition filed with the Cable Division of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy. Carlisle joins other communities responsible for implementing licensing and who are accountable to the public in opposing the proposed new rules.

In answer to the questions posed in your memo, please review the following:

- In Carlisle the initial cable license application is first sent to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen after reviewing the application forward it to the Cable TV Advisory Committee for comment and to begin the licensing process. This process can take up to three weeks depending upon the date of receipt and the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
2. The Town of Carlisle has a Cable TV Advisory Committee. It is a standing committee. The Committee has been dormant since the last round of negotiations. The Terms of members are for three years. Any resident of the community may serve on the committee. The Committee would receive the application within four weeks dependent upon the meeting schedule of the Board of Selectmen. The Committee would then meet to begin the review process. In small communities we rely heavily on volunteers. It is not always easy to set meetings due to work/travel schedules of the volunteers.
3. The Town has a Town Counsel (firm) representing the Town. The municipality is represented in the negotiations by the Cable TV Advisory Committee. The Committee has access to Town Counsel as needed and any contract would be reviewed by Town Counsel prior to the Town signing. The Cable TV Advisory Committee would negotiation with the applicant. The Committee would bring all proposals back to a meeting of the Board of Selectmen for review. There could be several executive


sessions with the Board of Selectmen concerning negotiations and the proposals and counters. Any final agreement would have to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

4. The only time the Board of Selectmen would be unable to execute an agreement would be if they did not have a quorum present. After an election the new members are expected to be sworn in and begin office immediately.
5. It is our belief that the current licensing process and timeline work very well for the community. This is a difficult process, with an end product that must serve both the applicant and the residents.
6. Typical Timeline:

| | |
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| Application received. | |
| Board of Selectmen receive application. | Up to 3 weeks |
| Cable TV Advisory Committee receives application | |
| begins initial review/meetings. | Up to 8 weeks |
| First Meeting with Applicant for Clarifications. | Up to 2 weeks |
| Committee reviews/develops negotiation agenda. | Up to 8 weeks |
| Holds Public Hearing (14 day notice in paper | |
| which only prints once a week) for input from | |
| residents. | Up to 3 weeks |
| Committee reviews input | Up to 2 weeks |
| Meeting with Board of Selectmen on issues | Up to 3 weeks |
| Meetings with Applicant to work out any issues (Highly | |
| dependent on schedules of all concerned | |
| and issues). | Indeterminate |
7. The Town last conducted a review of its cable-related needs in 2000/2001.
8. The Town has not begun any licensing process with Verizon.

The Town of Carlisle urges you to oppose the request to change the current process. The community invites greater competition and expansion of video services, however, it must be a true and fair competition that will benefit all citizens. Local officials have a responsibility to their residents to negotiate for pro-consumer provisions. This proposed change will reduce the ability of local officials to protect the interests of their community and residents.

Sincerely,



Madonna J. McKenzie
Town Administrator